NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES CORDON BENNETT. TOR AND PROPRIETOR.

M. W. CORNER OF HASSAU AND FULTON THEMS, such in advance. Honey and by most will be at the

THE DAILY HERALD, too costs per copy, W per content THE WEEKLY HERALD, every Saturday, at vis conte THE COLUMN TWO PARTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE MO NOTION taken of anonymous correspondent rejected communications.

PHENTS removed every day; advertisements in PREELY HERALD, FAMILY MELALD, and in the Decompose Editions.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

AGADEMY OF MUSIC, Pourtosoil street, -ITALAUX OFER NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway. Tight Rope FRATE BOWERY THEATER, BOWERY.—SANTA CLAVE—A COLOR PRINCIPLE TANKE TARE—GOOD NATURED GENTLEMAN.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond street. WALLACK'S THRATRE, Broadway.-Events

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, 624 Broadway.-Duras

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowsey, -- MILLER OF NEW JERSEY--- MOTHER GOODS AND THE GOLDEN EGG--- OMNIBUS. PRENCH THEATRE, 595 Broadway.-Cowell's MUNICA

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—After BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadwing Burlesgues, Songs. Dancies, &c.—Science at Phalons. NIBLO'S SALOON, Broadway.—GEO. CRRISTY'S MIL

WOOD'S MINSTREL'S, 444 Broadway.—Ethiopian Song CHATHAM AMPHITHEATER.—Equestrian Perfor

NEW OPERA HOUSE, 720 Broadway.—DRAYTON'S PAR

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, December 28, 1859.

THE STATE OF THE UNION.

We do to-day what has never before been done by any newspaper since the beginning of the government. We publish entire, in one sheet the message of the President and the reports from all the departments, thus enabling the people at this critical juncture of our political history, to see at a glance, and at the cost of two cents, a panoramic picture of the whole state of the Union. The salient points of these important documents are given in the several editorial articles referring to them; but those who wish for more minute information can read the reports themselves. They are highly interesting and instructive to all who are concerned about the condition of the country, and at this eventful time they will command the attention of the majority of our readers. The accomplishment of this feat—the publication in this city of the President's message and all the reports of the heads of departments on the next morning after their delivery to Congressmarks a new era in journalism, and shows that the press has kept pace with the progress of the country, and is not only a mirror and a reflex of the times, but is itself part of the growth of the nation, one of its great institutions, increasing and developing its resources like the Union whose daily history it daguerreotypes.

The News. The readers of BERALD will find in the columns of to-day's paper the following important public

1.—The annual Message of the President.

 The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury
 The annual report of the Postmaster General. 4.—The annual report of the Secretary of War

5.-The annual report of the Secretary of the Navy

As these documents embrace the history of the m tion for the past year, and also contain very im portant recommendations affecting the material interests of all classes of citizens, they will command universal attention and careful perusal. Both houses of Congress were in session yeste

day. The Senate, after the reading of the Presi dent's Message, adjourned till Friday. In the House, Mr. Smith, of Virginia, delivered a speech on the relations between the North and the South A ballot for Speaker was then had without effect-

The West India mail steamship Karnak arrived at this port vesterday evening with news from Havans to the 20th, and from Nassau, N. P., to the 22d inst. There were no freights to be had at Havana. The United States steamship Wyandot Commander Stanley, when entering the port of Cienfuegos, with a distressed vessel in tow, was fired at with muskets from the fort and brought to by order of the officer in command. The Govern subsequently made some sort of an apology Trade was dull at Havana, but the city was healthy

The Northern Light came into port last evening from Aspinwall, with two hundred and sixty-fo passengers from San Francisco, a lot of gold dust and some of the ore from the new mines at Washoe, California, consigned to Havre. We have an Ap-pin wall letter, dated on the 19th inst., two days later than previous advices. The American clipper ship Mataro was burned at Taboga on the 19th inst. She was from Liverpool, bound for Cullao, with lime, patent fuel and coal, and it was thought that she caught fire from spontaneous combustion of the former material. Dr. Edman, surgeon of the English mail steamer Solent, had died of yellow feve The Solent had put into Aspinwall from San Juan del Norte, but brought no news from Central America. The United States frigate Sabine had sailed for San Juan del Norte from Aspinwall.

The American ship Margaret, of Portland, Henry A. Merryman, master, from New Orleans bound Glasgow, with a cargo of 1,340 bales of cotton, was lost on Little Bahama Bank on Sunday, the 18th inst., at two o'clock A. M. The cargo had been saved, with the exception of a few bales, all dry but the lower tier. Part of the cargo had ar-

A banquet was given by Mr. Fernando Wood the indefatigable Mayor elect, at the Astor House, on Saturday evening last, to the members of the Common Council and Governor of the Almshouse elect. Mr. son delivered a speech, in which he stated his desire to bring about an honest ration of the city government, and his deinstien to combat every effort which may be made to check his progress in the accomplishment of that desirable object.

f that desirable object.

The Board of Supervisors met last evening. The

Stances, which had been referred to the Commit. tee on Annual Taxes, to appropriate the sum of

of 8 to 2. The Committee on Printing, &c., recom mended the passing of the bills, amounting to \$1,340 77, which was adopted. The resolution of Supervisor Bell, to increase the salaries of the Judges of the Supreme Court, Superior Court, the Common Pleas and the Surrogate, to the extent of \$1,000 in addition to their present pay, to take effect from the 1st of January, 1860, was again called up, discussed, and finally lost by a tie vote of 6 to 6. The report of the Committee on Criminal Courts, in favor of increasing the Metropolitan police force to fourteen hundred men, was adopted a polyticity of the polytic force to fourteen hundred men, was adopted, notwithstanding the veto of Mayor Tiemann. After some routine business the Board adjourned, to meet on Friday next at three o'clock.

At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen last evening, Alderman Brady presented a resolution to the effect that it was proper that on the arrival of the Hon. Wm. H. Seward in this city, its inhabitants, who constitute a large preportion of his con-stituents, should, through their representatives in the Common Council, evince their appreciation of his worth and public services by tendering him the use ber of the Aldermen, in the City Hall friends, and providing for the appointment of a committee of three to carry the resonation made effect. This was adopted unanimously. The Chair named Aldermen Brady, Tuomey and Smith as such committee. The Tax Levy was made a special committee. ee of three to carry the resolution into cial order for Friday next. Resolutions appropriating \$500 each for the portraits of Mayor Tiemann and ex-Governor King, were presented and laid over. The report to change the name of "Buena Vista" to "Fort George," on the Worth monument, to conform to historical fact, was con. curred in. A communication was received from the Comptroller for an ordinance authorizing the additional Croton water stock, to the mount of not more than \$1,000,000. The report in favor of donating \$500 to the Opthalmic Hos pital was received and laid over. The report n favor of donating the sum of \$4,423 for the Co lored Orphan Asylum was adopted. The commu nication from the Comptroller recommending additional appropriations was called up. The Board then adhered to their former action, and refused to concur with the clause inserted by the Councilmen appropriating a further sum of \$20,00 for print

The Board of Councilmen disposed of a large number of routine papers last evening, all of which nowever, were devoid of general public interest They concurred with the Aldermen in granting the use of their chamber to Senator Seward to receive his friends on his arrival from Europe. A petitio of Engine Company No. 7 for a new engine was granted. A resolution to increase the salary of the Auditor of Accounts in the Finance Department to \$3,500, was adopted. The Board adjourned till Fri day afternoon at two o'clock.

In the absence of a quorum of the Board of AlmsHouse Governors yesterday, no business was disposed of at their meeting. The number in the institutions at the present time is 7,883, an in crease of two over last week. The number admitted during the past week being 1,245, and those who died, were discharged, or sent to other institutions, numbered 1.243.

institutions, numbered 1,243.

The sales of cotten yesterday reached about 2,000 hales.
The market closed with steadiness, on the basis of 11c.
for middling uplands. The receipts at the ports since the
1st of September last have reached 1,944,000 bales, against 1,623,000 for the same period in 1856. Estimating the crop of 1859 at 4,000,000 to 4,200,000 bales, it will be perceived that the receipts by the 1st proximo will approximate one-half of the whole crop—a result, reached so early in the season, without precedent. Of the supplies we have exported in the same time 994,000 bales, against 819,000 in 1868; and, at \$50 per bale, of the value of \$40,000 cm. against 819,000 in 1858; and, at \$50 per bale, of the value of \$49,700,000. The stock on hand, by latest mail dates, amounted to 884,000, against 700,000 in 1858. Flour was moderately dealt in, and prices were without change of importance. Wheat was firmly held, while sales were light. Corn was unchanged. Pork continued to be held with firmness, with sales at rates given in to be held with firmness, with sales at rates given in another column. Sugars were in more active demand, and prices were firm. The sales embraced about 2,650 hbds., a part of which were sold on Saturday afternoon. For prices we refer to another column. Codies was firm, with moderate sales of Rio, including a small lot of Magacaibo, at full prices. The stock of Rio embraced 17,666 bags, 36,500 mats, and 1,000 bags Java, giving a total of all kinds (including 4,836 bags Ceylon) of 61,252 bags and mats. Freights were firm, but engagements were quite

The President's Message-The Broad No tional Policy of Mr. Buchanan's Administration

The President's annual message to Congress is at length before our readers. After waiting three weeks for an organization from the cordant elements of the House, we think that Mr. Buchanan has acted wisely in reference to the wishes of the American people, and with a proper regard to the dignity of his own position, in resolving to wait no longer. The mem bers of the House can read and inwardly digest the solid figures, the sober truths, and the easonable, judicious and patriotic recommen dations of the message, as well without a Speaker as with one. We hope, too, that the broad national and conservative policy of the administration, as thus laid down, will soon be marked by good results in the House. We are confident that the message, at all events, will receive a large and cordial endorsement from all sections, parties and classes of the country.

In the outset the President touches upon the late abolition foray at Harper's Ferry with becoming gravity; and in that lofty spirit of conciliation for which he is so distinguished, he expresses the firm belief that this deplorable affair "will be the means, under Providence of allaying the existing excitement, and preventing future outbreaks of a similar charac ter." Upon this point he is very powerfully sustained by the uprising Union sentiment of the country, in all directions.

Next, upon the subject of slavery in the Territeries, the President takes especial care that there shall be no longer any possible excuse for a misconstruction of his platform. He accepts the decision of the Supreme Court as conclusive that the Territories are alike open to the North and the South during their Territorial condition, and that pending this interval "neither Congress nor a Territorial Legislature, nor any human power, has any authority to annul or impair this vested right," This position may not be satisfactory to Mr. Douglas and his followers; it may not come up to the extreme demands of the Southern fire-eaters; it certainly will be denounced as rank heresy by the republicans; but until some better plan shall be proposed than this, of absolute non-intervention touching slavery in the Territories, for the preservation of law and order therein, the patriotic reader of every party will be apt to recognise the superior weight of Mr. Buchanan's views. They suggest a platform upon which the democracy of all sections may harmonious ly stand; nor can they agree upon any other.

Upon the African slave trade the messag emphatically refutes and rebukes all those unfounded partisan libels which for the last twelve months have charged the administra tion with a guilty complicity or connivance in the matter of the revival of this infamous traffic. We especially commend the message upon this subject to the careful and honest consid ation of Mr. Thurlow Weed, of the Albany Journal, and to all others of our newspaper appropriated, was called up, and adopted by a vote cotemporaries who have assisted in the circula-

tion of his inventions and insinuations, implicatin the administration with these African slave traders

Referring the reader to the otherwise satisfactory condition of our foreign relations, as detailed in the message, our attention is par-ticularly called to Spain, Cuba, and the affairs of Mexico. Upon Cuba the policy of a liberal fund with which to open negotiations is adhered to, from which it must be evident that there is good ground for the belief that the experiment suggested would be crowned with success. In the affairs of Mexico it appears "there has been no improvement" since last
December. The clear and highly interesting explanation of these "affairs" which is then given fully justifies the recommendations which follow in favor of the recognition of the liberal government, and for a law "authorizing the President, under such restrictions as may be dee ed expedient, to employ a sufficient military force to enter Mexico for the purpose of ob-taining indemnity for the past and security for

Here we have the only practical solution this Mexican problem, short of the occ of that country by some European Pewer, or the rapid descent of the Mexican States to the condition of so many camps of savages. Here, too, the President suggests a cosp d'état, promising the happiest results to us in our domestic relations, and the most brilliant advantages in the extension of our political and commercial power. Here we have a programme bold, patriotic, practical and progressive. which can be made to sweep the country in November next over any and all other questions combined. Let us, therefore, hope that the President this time will be actively seconded by the democracy in Congress, and that this Mexican question, now fully ripe, will be speedily reduced to a practical test with the ene nies of our national advancement.

The message recommends a Territorial government for Arizona. Very good. We are not aware of any objection. Our Central American affairs have been settled in several treaties, which it is thought will be satisfactory to all concerned. Let them be ratifled. Protection to our citizens and property crossing the Isthmus of Panama, &c., is demanded. Let it be given. The idea that it will involve a surrender to the Executive of the war making power is simply ridiculous. The facts and recedents cited by the message, including the Paraguay expedition, are conclusive.

The Pacific Railroad enterprise is again es nestly urged upon the favorable attention of Congress, for the reasons assigned by the President in his last two annual sages. We apprehend, however, that the conflicting parties and factions in both houses have too many other irons in the fire, and are too much divided upon the route and the ways and means, and the power to construct such road, to agree upon any scheme this side the Presidential election. Having fulfilled his pledges, Mr. Buchanan, in any event, need not trouble himself any furthe upon the subject.

The somewhat practical question of our federal finances has been very industriously attended to by the administration in all its departments, as the reports of the several Secretaries will show. Some encouraging progress has also been made in the work of 1 trenchment and reform, which gives the President the right to demand the co-operation of Congress. But whether they will co-operate or not is quite another thing. Again: for the purpose of avoiding for the future the beg zarly expedients of loans and treasury notes the message adheres to the policy of an in crease of the revenue from the customs through such modifications of the tariff schedules as will secure the double purpose of more mo ney to the treasury and some incidental pro ection to our home manufactures

Such are the salient points of this mee n its essential features it is a reproducti that of last year, and in every respect it bear the marks of a calm, thoughtful, earnest and in dustrious chief magistrate, in the discharge of his great and manifold responsibilities. We see that nothing has escaped his supervision, and that in everything he is the faithful public servant. We know that his administration has been steadily gaining ground, and we feel assured that from this day it will still more largely command the respect and confidence of the American people.

The Condition of Our Navy-The Report of the Secretary.
We publish in full, in another column, the re-

port of the Secretary of the Navy for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1859. After a brief survey of the Paraguay expedition and its satisfactory results, the Secretary refers to the efforts for the suppression of the slave trade, to which the services of eight steamers have been devoted-four on the coast of Guinea, and the same number on the coast of Cuba. During the past year, the squadron on the African coast have seized three American vessels engaged in the slave trade there, and sent them back to the authorities in the United States. Mr. Toucey is of opinion that the presence of these two squadrons will render the slave traffic so dangerous that few American vessels will be willing to

A further increase of steamships is earnestly recommended, as well as an increased force of marines, midshipmen, naval surgeons and pursers, to meet the requirements of the service. Since the commencement of the present administration, twenty steam vessels have been added to the navy. The seven screw sloops of war authorized by the act of Congress of June, 1858, have been launched, and are all in commission except one, and they are all reported as well constructed and satisfactory. Two of them were built at Pensacola navy yard, and one at the navy yard of Mare Island, California, thus demonstrating that vessels required for the Pa cific service can be constructed on that coast thereby avoiding the danger and delay of the voyage around Cape Horn.

The cruisings of the various squadrons form an interesting feature in the report. The duties of the Home Squadron were chiefly confined to the Gulf of Mexico and the Central American and Mexican coasts, where they had enough to do during the troublesome times there. The Pacific Squadron was occupied in looking after the interests of our citizens in the South American ports and the Pacific islands. The Mediterranean Squadron during the Italian war found occupation in protecting American interets in that quarter, and had previously adjusted difficulties with Syria arising out of the murder of Mr. Steinbeck and the outrage upon the

India Scadron fell the duty of conveying and protecting our Ministers to Japan and China during the negotiation of the important commercial treaties which our government has succeeded in making with these hitherto exclusive

No appropriations having been made by the last Congress for improvement in the navy yards, the works of that description have been suspended, and no estimates are presented for their continuance for the next fiscal year. The estimates for the support of the navy and marine corps, and all other objects under the control of the Navy Department, for the year 1859, were \$14,616,289, the appropriations \$14,508,354, and the expenditures \$14,659,267. For the year 1860 the estimates were \$13,500,370, and the appropriations \$10,464,769. The estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1861, are put down at \$11,244,845 in the present re port of the Secretary, being two millions and a quarter lower than those of 1860. The report will be read with interest.

The Financial Condition of the Nation. The report of Mr. Cobb on the state of the finances has the merit of being short, and we are constrained to say that it has no other. He follows in the old system of making up a mass of figures in such a way that no small ability at what a schoolboy calls cyphering is necessary to learn how the accounts of the country really stand. It was the object of the framers of the constitution that the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury should present to the country a clear exhibit of the public revenue and expenditure, just as the head of any well ordered business concern would make up his annual account of income and expenses, to see how his affairs had gone for the past year, and where he stood towards his creditors. The heads of the Treasury Department have long since departed from this idea, and Mr. Cobb has not had the wit to get his clerks out of the beaten track. We have taken the pains to analyse his exhibit for the year 1858-59, so as to show the income account, expense account, and borrowed money account of the federal government for the past year. Here are the figures:-

\$53,405,071 01 .. \$12,941,155 12 Excess of expense over income \$30,346,440 56 To meet this great disproportion between expenses and income, resort has been had to the fallacious system of borrowing, and

\$2,059,040 56 9,667,400 0

creating a debt for future payment. Thus

If this were the account of a private individual, he would not have credit on 'Change for a single day; for however great his assets might be, they could not stand such financiering during ordinary business times. If we were en gaged in an expensive war for the defence of the permanent interests of the country, which compelled us to draw upon our future resources for the purpose of securing those interests, the creation of a public debt would be pardonable; but that in a period of profound peace the Secretary of the Treasury should be compelled to borrow a sum nearly equal to sixty per cent of the public income, is a reproach and a shame. need not go into an analysis of Mr. Cobb's estimates for 1859-60. They show the same state of affairs. The Secretary figure a balance of nearly fourteen millions of dollars which he shows will stand to his credit in the treasury if-oh! that little if-Congress will make no more appropriations and stop payment on the deficits in the Post Office and othe departments. If these deficits, however, should be paid, the cash in hand will be cut down to about three and a half millions for Congress to veer and haul on. On this basis Mr. Cobb thinks we shall not be short of money; but as we take a very different view of the probable action of Congress from what Mr. Cobb does. we are not at all surprised that the President differs from him in opinion, and opines that there will be a deficit.

We yet entertain the hope of seeing in the Treasury department a man who will have the manhood to throw aside this system of smothering the public accounts, and who will frankly say to the country that our system of finance is shamefully inadequate to our requirements, and that if we continue much longer in the present system we shall incur a chronic habit of deficit which must eventually burthen us with increased expenditures for interest, and perhaps mate rially injure our credit. If we cannot raise suficient revenue to meet our ordinary expense under our present circumstances, we respectfully submit that either Mr. Cobb or the genius of Columbia should feel the blush of shame tingling the cheek. According to the Secretary's exhi bit, we imported foreign products to the amount of \$338,768,130, on which we collected an average duty of fifteen per cent, and we exported \$356,789,462 of products in the year 1858-9. We should think a concern doing such a business as that ought to be able to pay its

We need not go into Mr. Cobb's crudities about commerce, nor his platitudes and overestimates about gold from California. Nobody cares a pin about his or any other Secretary of the Treasury's opinions about trade and overtrade. All the merchants of the country wish to know of the Secretary of the Treasury is how much revenue he requires to meet the wants of government, and how he proposes to raise it. Every merchant can at once tell how the proposed measures will affect his own business a great deal better than Mr. Cobb can.

The Secretary goes on to show that the permanent public debt is \$45,155,977 66, and the temporary debt on the 30th of June, 1859, was \$15,046,800 more-making a total of \$60,202,-777 66, while the public buildings in process o erection have been stopped, and no provision has been made for the redemption of twenty millions of treasury notes falling due on the 30th of June next. We do not lay the blame of this state of things on Mr. Cobb. It is only a part of the nightmare which the administra amily of Mr. Dickson at Jaffa. To the East tion of Mr. Buchanan inherited from that of

poor Pierce, and which the President has honestly desired to pay off by adopting a healthy policy of finance; only that Mr. Cobb has differed persistently from Mr. Buchanan in this respect, and a factious Congress has done nothing at all but pass bills for private jobs, and thus help to make the matter worse.

Important Pestage Reforms-Report of

the Postmaster General.

Among the public documents transmitted to Congress by the various departments of the overnment at Washington, and printed in our columns to-day, will be found the able and important report of the Postmaster General. The report opens with an allusion to the

death of his predecessor in March last, which, together with the factious refusal of the last Congress to pass the usual appropriation bill for the department, placed the affairs of the Post Office in a state of embarrassment unprecedented since the foundation of the governsent. Never did any previous Congress close its labors with such an utter disregard of any rovision for this important public service. It left unprovided for, in any shape or form, a deficiency of \$4,296,009 26. The result of this night have been a total constion of the mails, but that the contractors, animated with a patriotic spirit, took the risk of not being paid. erfully continued the service, depending on the next Congress to make the matter all right. The present Congress, however, seems to he no improvement last; for nearly a now elapsed in debating about the election of a Speaker, and no attempt has yet been made to do that simple act of justice to the mail contractors. When we compare this conduct with the abuse to which the mail service is subjected by members of Congress, in sending not only their letters, but even their dirty linen, free by post, and flooding the country with their still dirtier trash of speeche and pamphlets, and such foul and treasonable books as Helper's "Impending Crisis," at the expense of the Post Office Department, the comparison places them in no enviable light

One of the most important points in th Postmaster's report is his recommendation of the abolition of the franking privilege. Congress, by its voting \$700,000 to the department for this privilege, admits that it has no right to it without compensation; but the "free matter" has so increased of late that the sum of \$700,000 is not one-fourth of what the compensation ought to be. It costs the department about \$3,000,000, without any advantage to the country; and the cutting off of that amount, with a little retrenchment in other directions, would have so reduced the expenditure that there would have been no deficiency at all at the close of the last session of Congress The recommendation of Mr. Holt is the best ever made to Congress by a Postmaster, with the exception of cheap postage. But there is very little probability of its being adopted by such a Congress as that which now trifles with the public interests. Will Gongress, if a sense of justice do not prompt it to abolish its frank ing privilege, at least have the decency to raise the remuneration to the Post Office Department to a figure commensurate with the burthen which Congress imposes on it?

Another measure which is hardly less important, and which we have urged for years, is the repeal of the act of 1825, which authorized "every printer of newspapers to send one paper to each and every other printer of newspapers within the United States free of postage," and also the absurd law of 1852, which requires that weekly newspapers shall be delivered free of postage to all subscribers residing within the county in which such papers are published. Mr. Holt advises the repeal of both these laws, for substantial reasons. The newspapers receiv ed in exchange are part of the journalist's stock in trade, and the expense of their carriage ought to be paid for the same as other stock, and there can be no good reason why all other persons should not receive newspapers free through the Post Office as well as journalists. The result of this law is to overload the mails with a vast number of trashy. useless papers, which otherwise would not be taken; and so far from serving the regular and enterprising newspaper, it only delays its transmission to the subscribers. The same observation applies with equal if not greater force to the privilege of sending a weekly newspaper free of postage to subscribers re-siding within the limits of the county in which it is published. By what rule of justice or equity does a person residing at the extreme limit of one county receive a newspaper printed in that county free, and his neighbor, residing beyond the boundary in the adjoining county, and within a stone's throw of him, pay postage for the same paper? As well migh etters be delivered free in the same county in which they are mailed. This law is the cause of a vast number of worthless and pernicious ephemeral papers burdening the mails, to the njury of the legitimate press, and those who cribe for its issues.

Under the head of "star bids," the Postmaster dverts to an important change which the deartment is making in the mode of advertising r proposals for carrying the mails. The act of March 3, 1845, declares that it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to invite proposals for carrying the mails with "due celerity, certainty and security," without any designation of the mode of conveyance. The letter and spirit of this act have been departed from, and by this departure the department has been embarrassed as much as from any other source. The mail service has been made subservient to the interests of commerce and travel, and to the support of railroad, steamboat and stage comdes which could not exist without them. and mail routes have been established in some places where no letters are sent, and in others expensive modes of conveyance have been advertised for, when the service could be performed more cheaply and as well by a diferent mode. Postmaster Holt announces his letermination to keep within the law, and not to exceed it for the benefit of jobbers.

There is another reform which the Postmi er points out as deeply needed, but which it is only in the power of Congress to make. The conveyance of the mails by railread costs \$3,243,974 per annum, besides \$626,174 for route agents, &c. In many instances, such as new lines and sparsely populated regions, there is scarcely any correspondence; and yet the railroad companies are permitted by law to mulct the department without rendering an equivalent. There is no reason why they should e paid more than for merchandise or the freight of express companies; but Congress hes fixed the rates much higher, while it compels

the Postmaster to convey the mails by raffrond. and does not auth orize him to compel contract for the performance of the work. The railroads are paid from \$50 to \$375 per mile for transportation, when in Canada the payment is from \$30 to \$40, for which a sepa tote car, and travelling post office for sorting and distributing, are furnished. If the mails are sent as ordinary freight in Canada, the charge is but two center per mile when the freight does not exceed two hundred pounds. Notwithstanding the enermous remuneration, the companies, for the most part, will not render any accommodation to the department; and they start at what times they please, and make such speed as they think fit. The change demanded in the law is to reduce the compensation by at least one-third, and compel the companies to enter into contracts with the Postmaster. At the law now stands, of the three hundred and eighteen railroad routes in the United States. there are one hundred and thirty-seven on which the mails are transported without contract. This is clearly wrong.

By the retrenchment effected by these re-forms, and by getting rid of useless routes, such as the Tehuantepeo, and by the practice of economy in some other branches of the service-the Post Office might be made a self-sustaining institution, as it is in England, and letters de livered to the address without charge beyond the postage. This would be a great boon to the poor, and save rich and poor and the carriers from trouble. Often housekeepers have not two cents at hand, and the carrier will not leave the letter without payment. One object of prepayment in the postage of letters is thus defeated, and to remedy the annoyance it would be better even to make a uniform rate of four or five cents postage, and have the letters delivered at the address without further charge; and all "drop letters" in cities should be delivered free when bearing a postage stamp of two cents. That pays in London and other towns of England. Why not here?

The total revenue of our Post Office for the year 1859 is \$7,968,484. The expenses are \$15,754,092. The income, therefore, is only about half the expenditure, whereas in England the government derives a considerable revenue from its Post Office, while postage is cheaper than it is here. What is to prevent the great republic of the New World practising as much conomy in its mail service as any of the monarchies of the Old World? and what good eason can be assigned for the Post Office being heavy burthen, instead of a self-supporting institution, in a country in which general education is far more widely diffused than it is in

Non-Arrival of the Hungarian. PORTLAND, Dec. 27, 1850
There are as yet no signs of the steamthip Hungarie

now fully due here with Liverpool dates of the 14th inst. Weather clear and very cold.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 26, 1869. The steamship Tennessee has arrived from Vera Orus 22d inst. The news is unimportant.

A part of the cargo of guns and carbines ordered by the

overnment had arrived from New York.

The bark Julia Dean, from Havana for Vera Cruz, was ost on the 9th, in a gale, near Vera Druz. The crew t aved, but the vessel was a total loss. Degollada had arrived at Vera Cruz.

Tampico was quiet, and no attack was apprehended Marquez had been imprisoned by Miramon, charges

The liberals had surprised and captured Taotitian, is

Arrival of the Overland Mail.

Mallot's Statton, Mo., Dec. 26, 1860.

The overland mail, with San Francisco dates of the 6th
rrived here at half-past eleven o'clock on Sunday morn. ng. It will probably reach St. Louis to-night.

The news by this arrival is unimportant. The following

The news by this arrival is unimportant. The following is a brief summary.—

The Washoe sliver mines continued to yield richly, the ore averaging \$4,000 to the ton. Transportation of it to San Francisco cost about \$105 a ton, and preparations, melting, &c., about \$412. It is thought that another season will develope the immense riches of that country. The Union and Democrat says that the rain was a great benefit to the quarks and placer mines of Tuolumne country. It will set in operation over a hundred and first stamps which have been idle for several months.

The heavy rains on the 23d and 24th November caused great damage on the Calaveras and its tributaries. The

The heavy rains on the 23d and 24th November caused great damage on the Calaveras and its tributaries. The loss of cattle in San Joaquin county by the late storm is reported very great.

The new quartz mills of Col. Framont, in Mariposa county, known as the Benton Mills, have commenced operations with forty-eight stamps, making it the largest ostablishment of the kind in California.

There was no important news from the mines. Snow had fallen so as te interrupt explorations.

It seems to be admitted that the silver mines near the East Fork of the Carson river, fifteen miles southeast of Genoa, are quite rich and very extensive. Assays have been made and the ore is found to yield \$1,000 per ton.

A meeting was held in Carson city on the 21st ult., to take into consideration the conduct of Alfred James, clerk of the United States District Court, in refusing to count or certify the votes whereby J. J. Masser was elected on the 12th of the same mouth, in place of J. M. Crane, deceased. Resolutions, declaring that James had offered an insuit to the people of Nevada Territory, were passed, and also a memorial to Congress, esting forth all the circumstances and necessities of the people, and the facts upon which they found their petition for organization in a Territorial form of convenience.

Fire at Newark, N. J.-Loss of Life. Newark, Dec. 27, 1859 Newars, Dec. 27, 10

About 3 o'clock yesterday morning, a dwelling in Coe's court in this city, occupied by four familied destroyed by fire. All the inmates escaped one, a Mrs. Lyons, who reached the front but becoming bewildered, could not open its screams for help were heard all over the neighbood, but before assistance could reach her the building was in flames. Her body was found am ruins two hoursafterwards. The unfortunate victim four children.

Detective officer Wambold arrested a man and a wo-man, named Welsh, living in the basement, on suspicion of setting fire to the place.

A coroner's inquest is being held to-day, and the testi-mony is very strong against them.

Steamboat Disasters, &c.
Lormville, Doc. 26, 1
The steamer Vixen, from Pittsburg for St. Loui
burned this morning. The loss on the cargo is: The steamer Vixen, from Pittaburg for St. Louis, wa, burned this morning. The loss on the cargo is \$3,000-and on the boat \$17,000. She was owned by Mr. McShos ver, of Brownsville, Penn. Geo. Mott, a school teacher of Lynchburg, Va., was burned to death at Point Worthington, Miss., recently. Two coal boats, owned by Rupert & Smith, of Pittaburg, sunk on Thursday, and Joseph Lydick, of Pittaburg, and John Baxter, of Jeffersonville, were drowned.

The Huntsville at Savannah.
Savannah, Dec. 27, 1859.
The steamship Huntsville arrived here on Sunday eving, December 28.

The America Outward Bound.

Bosros, Dec. 27, 1869.

The mails per the steamship America, for Liverpoo via Halifax, will close here at nine o'clock to-morrow (Wednesday) morning, but she will not sail until about noon. Despatches filed in the telegraph office, No. 21 Wall street, New York, so as to reach here by 11 A. M., will be sent out in her.

Burglary at Troy.

Taor, Dec. 27, 1859.

The country residence of W. F. Burden, near this city, was entered by burglars on Sunday night and robbed of silver plate to the value of fourteen hundred deliars. A reward of \$350 is offered.

Murder in Hoston.

Bosrov, Dec. 27, 1250.

Harriet Goodnow, allas Freeborn, keeper of a broth in Spring street, was choked to death last night by Cha H. Goodhue. He was arrested.

Arrival of Henry Clay's Statue. New Onnans, Dec. 26, 1850. The ship Fanny Fern has arrived from Havre, with titute of Henry Clay.

The Toledo, Logansport and Burlington Railroad.

LOGANSPORT, Ind., Dec. 26, 1859.
The Toledo, Logansport and Burlington Railroad Company completed their track on Saturday, and an excursion train left here for Pcoria to-day.

The Freemasons and the Union PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 27, 1859.
The Hon. Henry M. Phillips was this day lastalled of Grand Lodge of Pengaylvania, 82 made a very appropriate and suitable a turess for the occ